

### **REMARKS**

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough consideration provided in the present application. Claims 1 and 3 are currently pending in the instant application. The subject matter of claim 2 has been incorporated into claim 1. Claim 2 has been cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter set forth therein. Claim 1 is independent, and claim 1 has been amended. Reconsideration of the present application is earnestly solicited.

#### **Reasons for Entry of Amendments**

At the outset, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered into the Official File since the claims as amended are believed to place the application in condition for allowance.

In the alternative, if the Examiner does not agree that this application is in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered for the purpose of appeal. This Amendment was not presented at an earlier date in view of the fact that the Applicants did not fully appreciate the Examiner's rejection until receiving this Final Office Action. No new issue is raised since claim 2 has been basically rewritten in independent form. See claim 1, as amended.

#### **Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102**

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Kobayashi (U.S. Patent No. 5,781,818). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance the prosecution of the present application, independent claim 1 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of dependent claim 2. Claim 1, as amended, now recites a combination of elements directed to a lens apparatus capable of performing serial and parallel communication with a camera body through a serial and parallel communication interface, including:

a selection device which prohibits the serial communication, wherein:

when the serial communication is prohibited by said selection device, the parallel communication is performed with a camera body.

By contrast, Kobayashi merely discloses switches 64, 65 that only turn on/off when the lens 59 is set in a position on the side of a nearest distance end or an infinity distance end. Thus, the switches as disclosed by Kobayashi have nothing to do with prohibiting serial communication with the camera body, as presently set forth in claim 1.

Accordingly, the rejection of independent claim 1 should be withdrawn.

In accordance with the above discussion of the patent relied upon by the Examiner, Applicants respectfully submit that this document fails to teach or suggest the invention as is set forth by the claims of the instant application.

As to dependent claim 3, Applicants respectfully submit that this claim is allowable due to its dependence upon an allowable independent claim, as well as for additional limitations provided by this claim.

For example, dependent claim 3 has a characteristic of reducing the processing speed of the 'processing circuit' of the lens apparatus when the serial communication is prohibited, and has an effect of reducing power consumption, which is a unique feature to the present invention. Meanwhile, when a conventional lens that is not capable of high-speed communication is applied, Kobayashi merely continues to use the conventional and slow, open drain system to perform the communication. In other words, Kobayashi does not recognize the technical idea of reducing the processing speed of the 'processing circuit', which does not result in the effect of reducing power consumption, as is made possible by the present invention.

Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

### **CONCLUSION**

Since the remaining references cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but merely to show the state-of-the-art, no further comments are deemed necessary with respect thereto.

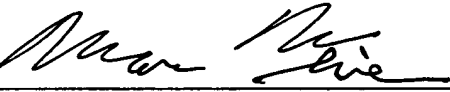
All the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed and/or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently pending rejections and that they be withdrawn.


In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Carl T. Thomsen, Registration No. 50,786 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Marc S. Weiner, #32,181

MSW/CTT/sks   
0879-0427P

P.O. Box 747  
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747  
(703) 205-8000